Harvesting campaign has been launched keeping in view the various target groups. Publicity through print media, telecasting of spots on the television, broadcasting meassages on radio, holding of seminars, workshops, conferences etc., have also been undertaken.

(vii) The Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation, Government of India have amended Building Bye-laws, 1983, making provision for water harvesting through storing of water run-off including rain water in all new building on plots of 100 square metres and above in Delhi mandatory. Similarly, State Governments of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan and Kerala have made roof top rain water harvesting mandatory in specified cases.

(c) No, Sir.

Storage of ground water

1505. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have issued any directions to the State Governments to take necessary steps to preserve the ground water storage against its unlimited exploitation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the States particularly State Governments of Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Punjab and Delhi;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to introduce any special scheme to minimize the use of ground water; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the average rate of extraction of ground water for agriculture per day?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The Union Ministry of Water Resources has circulated a Model Bill to all the States/ Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development. Most of the State Government

have reacted positively and are taking steps for enactment of legislation in this regard. As per information available, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Goa, West Bengal and Union Territories of Pondicherry and Lakshadweep have enacted legislation for this purpose. The position in respect of Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Punjab and Delhi is given below:—

(i) **Maharashtra:**— Maharashtra Ground Water Regulation Act has been drafted by the State Government who is processing it for enactment.

(ii) **Rajasthan:**— Rajasthan Ground Water (Regulation) Bill, 1997 has been drafted by the State Government who is evaluating the impact of similar legislation enacted in other States.

(iii) **Punjab:**— The Punjab Ground Water (Control and Regulation) Act, 1998 was prepared on the basis of Model Bill and was submitted to the Punjab State Water Resource Committee. However, the Committee observed that the draft is too harsh on users. The Committee decided after considering the report of the expert group to first control the demand, to make some corrective measures for optimum use of ground water and its augmentation. They also opined that Punjab being an irrigation State and dependant upon ground water, adoption of Model Bill is not in the larger interest of the farmers and suggested that a system of incentives is better.

(iv) **Delhi:**— The State Government is in the process of changing the Delhi Water Board Act to accommodate concerns expressed in the Model Bill, draft of which has since been prepared and at consultation stage.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.